

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 5 and 9-28.

Please amend claims 3, 4 and 6-8 to read as follows:

3. (Amended) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the phytoestrogen comprises an isoflavone, lignan, coumestan, resorcylic acid lactone, or mixtures thereof.

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4. (Amended) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the phytoestrogen or phytoandrogen is derived from soy bean or flax seed, or protein products thereof.

6. (Amended) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the mammal food base comprises a food of animal origin, a food of plant origin, or mixtures thereof.

7. (Amended) A dietary composition according to claim 29, comprising from about 0.001 to about 10 weight percent, based on the weight of the composition, of phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen, or a mixture thereof.

8. (Amended) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the phytoestrogen comprises daidzin, genistin, daidzein, genistein or coumesterol.

Please add the following claims:

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-29. (NEW) A dietary composition comprising a mammal food base and a component comprising phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen or a mixture thereof in an amount sufficient to reduce weight gain normally incurred in the mammal type subsequent to neutering, castration, spaying, ovariectomy or ovariohysterectomy, or post menopause, when

the dietary composition is administered to a mammal on a regular basis, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of carnitine, inulin, conjugated linoleic acid and fructose oligosaccharide--

--30. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, comprising phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen or a mixture thereof, and carnitine--

--31. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, comprising phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen or a mixture thereof, and inulin--

--32. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, comprising phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen or a mixture thereof, and conjugated linoleic acid--

--33. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, comprising phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen or a mixture thereof, and fructose oligosaccharide--

--34. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the mammal food base comprises a milk product.--

--35. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the mammal food base comprises a cereal, a starch, or a mixture thereof.--

--36. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, wherein the phytoestrogen comprises formononetin, genistin, daidzin, ononin, sissotrin, resveratrol or biochanin A.--

--37. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 29, comprising from about 0.01 to about 10 weight percent, based on the weight of the composition, of phytoestrogen, phytoandrogen, or a mixture thereof.--

--38. (NEW) A dietary composition comprising a mammal food base and a component comprising estrogen or androgen derived from a fungal or microbial source, or a mixture of estrogen or androgen derived from a fungal or microbial source, in an amount sufficient to reduce the weight gain normally incurred in the mammal types subsequent to neutering, castration, spaying, ovariectomy or ovariohysterectomy, or post menopause, when the dietary composition is administered to a mammal on a regular basis, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of carnitine, inulin, conjugated linoleic acid and fructose oligosaccharide.--

--39. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, comprising estrogen, androgen or a mixture thereof, and carnitine--

--40. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, comprising estrogen, androgen or a mixture thereof, and inulin.--

--41. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, comprising estrogen, androgen or a mixture thereof, and conjugated linoleic acid.--

--42. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, comprising estrogen, androgen or a mixture thereof, and fructose oligosaccharide.--

--43. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, wherein the mammal food base comprises a food of animal origin, a food of plant origin, or mixtures thereof.--

--44. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, wherein the mammal food base comprises a milk product.--

--45. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, wherein the mammal food base comprises a cereal, a starch, or a mixture thereof.--

--46. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, comprising from about 0.001 to about 10 weight percent, based on the weight of the composition, of estrogen, androgen, or a mixture thereof.--

--47. (NEW) A dietary composition according to claim 38, comprising from about 0.01 to about 10 weight percent, based on the weight of the composition, of estrogen, androgen, or a mixture thereof.--